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Identical letters dated 6 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

In previous letters, we have described the scale of the aggressive practices of the current Turkish Government and certain other States from the region and outside it that are directly and indirectly supporting armed terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida in Syria. Those States are in flagrant violation of the principles and provisions of international law, the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The Turkish Government continues to admit openly to interfering in Syrian internal affairs. The Turkish Head of Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs have recently made statements to that effect in Geneva, Vienna and Rome. Their Government continues to use every available means to shelter, train, arm and fund armed terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida. The scale of Turkey's intervention in the events in Syria is underscored by the facts on the ground, Turkish and international political and media reports, and statements made recently by Turkish parliamentarians and party leaders. Parliamentarians have recently brought before the Turkish Parliament conclusive evidence of the Turkish Government's involvement in the events in Syria. For instance, the Libyan ship *Intisar* docked in the port of Iskenderun two months ago with special authorization from the Turkish Ministry of the Interior. Its cargo consisted of 400 tons of weapons intended for terrorists in Syria and 250 Libyan terrorists seeking to enter Syrian territory. Atilla Kart, a member of parliament for the Republican People's Party, recently filed an information request asking the Turkish Government to explain why it had allowed three Saudi C-130 military transport aircraft to use Turkish airspace to transfer weapons, supplies and fighters to Syria. He asked whether the aircraft carried Al-Qaida combatants, adding, "By opening Turkish airspace to foreign forces coming from abroad, the Turkish Government has shown that it has become a party

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in Syria's internal war". Some days ago, the Turkish newspaper *Cumhuriyet* reported that Hurşit Güneş, a member of the Turkish Parliament for the Republican People's Party, has filed a criminal suit against the Turkish Government as a result of its anti-Syrian policies. Speaking at a press conference, he said, "The Freedom and Justice Party Government is training fighters on Turkish soil, transferring weapons to Syria and providing all forms of assistance and support to armed groups in Syria". He drew attention to statements openly made by leaders of the armed terrorist groups to international news agencies and media outlets. For example, on 27 February 2013, the news agency Reuters quoted leaders of the groups as saying, "A consignment of weapons reached Syria through Turkey last month. It included shoulder-borne and other portable equipment, including anti-aircraft and armour-piercing weapons, mortar shells and rockets". The weapons had been obtained "legally and by regular means, not through smuggling corridors but formally through the Turkish border crossing of Bab al-Hawa". That information shows beyond doubt that Turkish territory has become a base to rally, shelter, deploy, support and fund Al-Qaida terrorists active inside Syria with the knowledge and oversight of the Turkish Government.

Conclusive evidence continues to emerge day after day regarding the growing involvement of the Governments of Turkey and certain other States within and beyond the region in the events in Syria. By ignoring such information, the international community merely helps to prolong the crisis and provide cover for armed terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida and their sponsor States to continue massacring the Syrian people.

The Syrian Arab Republic hopes that the international community, including the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will genuinely and unambiguously shoulder its responsibility by condemning the actions of the Turkish Government and other States that support and fund armed terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida; holding them responsible for what is happening on Syrian territory; prevailing on them to desist from such actions, which amount to acts of aggression; and taking every possible step to address that dangerous situation in accordance with international law and the responsibility of the Security Council to combat terrorism and preserve international peace and security. By taking a genuine stand, the international community would tackle the crisis and encourage the Syrian opposition parties to come to the table of national dialogue and resolve the crisis through Syrian-led negotiations among Syrians.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative